

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

Approved For Release 2002/01/14 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100020066-4

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ROUTING

1	4	7	10
2	5	8	11
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TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR MCNAMARA,

STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION

25X1A

FLD
49

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 1

? DATE: 28 FEB 74

SUBJECT: FRENCH GOVERNMENT RESIGNS

REF:

THE MAN WHOM PRESIDENT POMPIDOU CHOOSES TO REPLACE PRIME MINISTER MESSMER IS EXPECTED TO SET THE STAGE FOR EARLY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS FORCED BY POMPIDOU'S DECLINING HEALTH.

THE INFORMATION MINISTER ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT A SUCCESSOR TO MESSMER WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC "VERY QUICKLY, POSSIBLY EVEN TODAY."

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF MEN IN THE RUNNING TO BE THE CANDIDATE OF THE GOVERNING COALITION IN THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE. FINANCE MINISTER GISCARD D'ESTAING IS A PRINCIPAL CONTENDER, AND IF HE IS APPOINTED PRIME MINISTER IT WILL BE TAKEN AS A SIGN THAT POMPIDOU IS GROOMING HIM FOR THE PRESIDENCY. GISCARD IS THE

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HEAD OF THE INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS; THE JUNIOR PARTNER OF
 THE COALITION, AND, ALTHOUGH HE IS A POMPIDOU FAVORITE, HE IS
 OPPOSED BY ORTHODOX GAULLISTS. THESE MEN WANT FORMER PRIME
 MINISTER CHAREN-DELMAS TO REPRESENT THE COALITION IN A
 PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST.

25X6

IF POMPIDOU CONCLUDES THAT IT IS FRUITLESS TO ATTEMPT TO FORCE
 Giscard to the fore, he could appoint as prime minister an
 orthodox gaullist, such as housing minister Guichard, agriculture
 minister Chirac, or armed forces minister Galley, who would back
 Chaban in a presidential race. Foreign minister Jobert is a well
 qualified candidate who probably is acceptable to all wing of
 the coalition and who would not threaten any presidential contenders
 because he lacks the necessary political base. His appointment
 would mean that Pompidou has not yet finalized the coalition choice
 of a presidential candidate.

2. THE RESIGNATION OF THE NESSMER GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN
 COMING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, DID NOT REFLECT DISSENSION WITHIN THE

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GOVERNMENT OVER FRENCH ENERGY POLICY AND OPPOSITION TO US ENERGY

PROPOSALS. E-2 IMPDET.H

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